

November 10, 2009

Email: <u>mtb2009@finance-dem.senate.gov</u>

Via: Email

Senate Finance Committee

Attn: MTB

219 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washing, DC 20510

Re: <u>Miscellaneous Tariff Bills</u>: S. 2627, S. 2628, S. 2629, S. 2630, S. 2631, S. 2632,

S. 2633, S. 2634, S. 2635, S. 2636, S. 2637

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of Leviton Manufacturing Company, Inc. ("Leviton"), the following are our comments pursuant to the November 2, 2009, announcement requesting public comments for the record from all parties interested in miscellaneous duty suspension proposals and corrections to the trade laws.

Leviton's history begins at the dawn of the electrical era in 1906. The company stands as a leader in the electrical industry, serving the industrial, commercial, OEM and residential markets. Today, Leviton has representatives in more than 100 countries and employs thousands of people in the United States.

Regarding the eleven bills sponsored by Senator Charles E. Schumer and Senator Kristen Gillibrand, we strongly support their inclusion in the Miscellaneous Tariffs Bill (MTB). In total, these eleven bills would provide temporary duty-free treatment for theatrical lighting fixtures, night lights, surge protective receptacles, programmable and countdown timers, lamp holders, tamper-resistant ground fault circuit interrupters and sensor activated switches, all of which we import into the United States. These bills would benefit a myriad of domestic companies, countless American consumers and to the best of our knowledge, faces no domestic manufacturing competition.

S. 2627	H.R. 5359	Aluminum Lamp Holder Housings Containing Sockets (MTB Renewal – Duty Suspension)
S. 2628	H.R. 5360	Brass Lamp Holder Housings Containing Sockets (MTB Renewal – Duty Suspension)
S. 2629	H.R. 5362	Porcelain Lamp Holder Housings Containing Sockets (MTB Renewal – Duty Suspension)
S. 2630	H.R. 5361	Plastic Lamp Holder Housings Containing Sockets (MTB Renewal – Duty Suspension)
S. 2631	H.R. 5357	Indoor/Outdoor Programmable and Countdown Timers Greater than 60 minutes (New MTB – Duty Suspension)
S. 2632	H.R. 5358	Banana Jack Connectors (New MTB – Duty Suspension)

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S. 2633	H.R. 5365 H.R. 5366	Tamper Resistant Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (New MTB – Duty Suspension)
S. 2634	No Number	Occupancy Sensor Switches (New MTB – Duty Suspension)
S. 2635	H.R. 5356	Surge Protective Receptacles (New MTB – Duty Suspension)
S. 2636	H.R. 5355	Theatrical Lighting Fixtures of Aluminum (New MTB – Duty Suspension)
S. 2637	H.R. 5354	Theatrical Lighting Fixtures of Plastic; On/Off and Motion Activated Night Lights of Plastic (New MTB – Duty Suspension

Over the past months material and transportation costs throughout our industry and the country have drastically increased. Taking into account the current state of the economy and the impact it is having on all Americans, we feel our ability to import these products duty-free will allow us to avoid or minimize any increases to our U.S. customers that will ultimately get passed down to the end consumer.

Currently, duties on these products range from 2.7% to 6%. Given that these duties are not protecting any U.S. production that competes directly with our imports, we hope that the committee will support a suspension of duty for these categories of imports and include them in the MTB.

If you have any questions or would like additional product information, please contact us directly.

Sincefely,

Karen Kosel

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cc:

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